

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-7 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,733,646 in view of Liang. In this respect, a terminal disclaimer has been filed herewith.

On page 4 of the Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwata in view of Liang.

In view of the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the invention. Claims 2 and 5-7 have been editorially amended.

In claim 1, it is specified that outlets are formed at the desalting compartments for taking out the deionized water, wherein the outlets of the desalting compartments are connected to the concentrated water introducing device to introduce a part of the deionized water containing at least one of silica and boron at a lower concentration than the raw water and obtained from the desalting compartments into the concentrating compartments at a side near the outlets for the deionized water of the desalting compartments.

As stated in paragraph 0013 of the specification, deionized water, which passes through the desalting compartment and contains silica or boron at a lower concentration than the raw water, is supplied to the concentrating compartment to flow in the flow direction opposite to that in the desalting compartment. Thus, it is possible to obtain the product water with significantly low silica or boron concentration.

In Kuwata, feed water is supplied through a line 111 to the desalting chambers 104 on one side, while concentration water is supplied to concentration chambers 105 on the other side. Treated

water is simply taken out from the desalting chamber 104 through a line 114.

In the invention, the outlets of the desalting compartments are connected to the concentrated water introducing device to introduce a part of the deionized water containing at least one of silica and boron at a lower concentration than the raw water and obtained from the desalting compartments into the concentrating compartments at a side near the outlets for the deionized water of the desalting compartments. In Kuwata, no specific water, i.e. a part of the deionized water, is supplied to the concentration chamber. Thus, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Kuwata.

On page 5 of the Action, it was held that "The Liang patent is cited to show the use of type II resin, and the volume ratio as claimed (see col. 9, lines 50-59 and claims 6-7)."


As stated in the Action, Liang discloses type II resin, and the volume ratio of the invention is included in Liang. However, Liang does not rectify the deficiency of the structure of Kuwata, as explained above.

Therefore, even if Kuwata and Liang are referred to, the features of claim 1 are not obvious. Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

A credit card authorization form in the amount \$130.00 is attached herewith for the terminal disclaimer fee.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 
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